

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3516

March 29, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, and Science
Capitol Building H-310
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, and Science
Capitol Building H-310
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully urge your support for NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) by providing the top line funding level of \$790 million.

Often unnoticed, investments in NASA's ARMD play a crucial role in the development and advancement of our country's aerospace economy and is a key driver of our nation's exports. Civil aviation consistently contributes over 5% to the U.S. GDP and supports over 10 million American jobs. Today, air travel remains the most efficient way to travel - over 2.6 million people fly in and out of U.S. airports every day and close to 43 billion pounds of freight are transported every year.


The proposed funding level for NASA's aeronautics research reflects the continued development of innovative, aeronautic technologies and is vital to maintaining our predominance in the aerospace industry, especially as we seek to bolster U.S. competitiveness in this critical sector of the global economy. The six focus areas of research within the ARMD include 1) safe & efficient growth in global operations 2) innovation in commercial supersonic aircraft 3) ultra-efficient subsonic transports, 4) safe, quiet, and affordable vertical lift air vehicles 5) in-time system-wide safety assurance 6) assured autonomy for aviation transformation. Many of the major developments in fundamental aeronautics have been the product of the Directorate's mission, and this increased funding can help advance numerous initiatives such as simulation, modeling, and flight demonstrators in partnership with U.S. industry.

As new technologies are discovered and innovated for aeronautics, they can be utilized for commercial, military, and civil uses. For example, previous funding for NASA helped to create and apply digital flight computers into cockpits, which transformed both military and commercial aircraft capabilities. Other technologies developed through NASA's partnerships with industry have increased safety and efficiency in aircraft. History has proven that individual creativity, government sponsorship, and industrial partnership are a successful course for bringing discovery and innovation to the marketplace. NASA has, and will continue to, play an important role in advancing our country's aeronautic capabilities.

Over the next 15 years, it is expected that the number of air passengers will double worldwide and the market for new aircraft sales will significantly increase. Countries such as China and Russia are investing billions of dollars into their aeronautics research and development to compete with the United States. This demands our attention and requires we commit the necessary resources to defend our position as the world's leading air power, especially in technologies that will support civilian and commercial transport including highly efficient aerodynamic configurations, advanced propulsion, and highly autonomous flight controls. Additionally, autonomy will be an enabler for future flight leadership, making it important to have accelerated flight demonstrations now to inform industry and regulatory agencies for future aircraft and air traffic management.

We strongly urge you to fund NASA ARMD at \$790 million so that we can maintain and grow our commercial and strategic edge in aeronautics. The United States must further commit to the ARMD programs so that we can meet the challenges of the 21st Century, lead the future global aviation market, and maintain our international preeminence in the air.

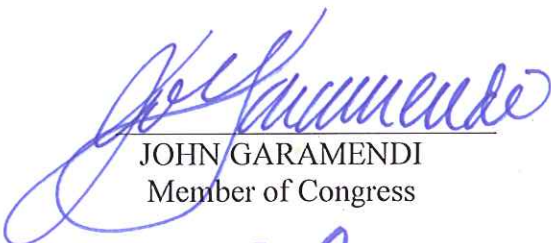
Sincerely,




ANTHONY GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



KATIE HILL
Member of Congress




JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



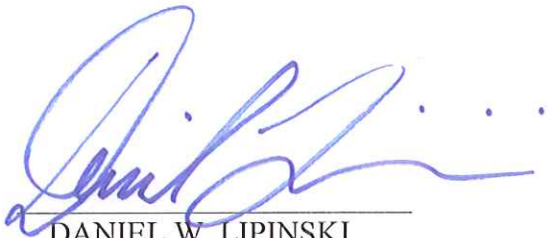
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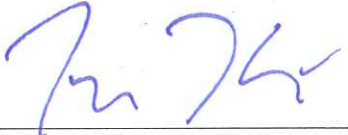
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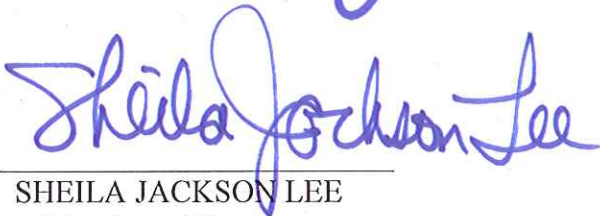
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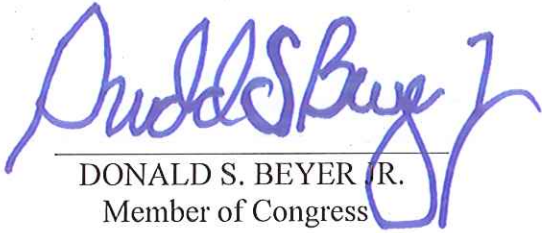

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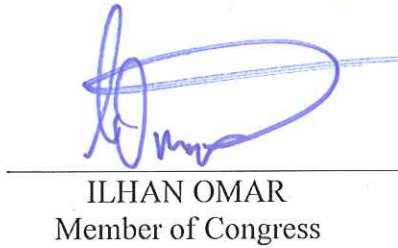

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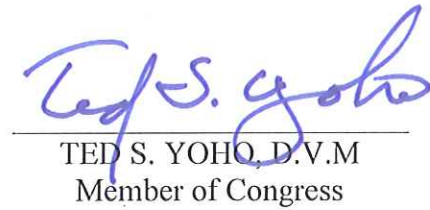
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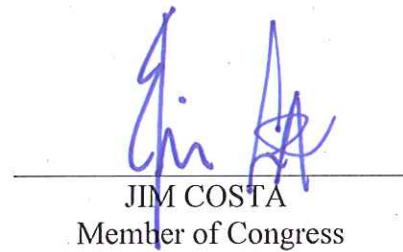
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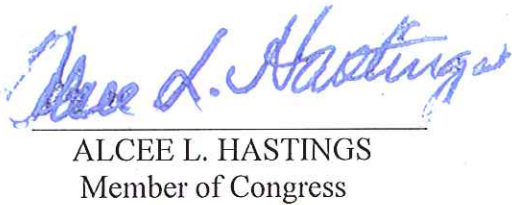
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